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DAVID

RAIMONDI

REBER

X-FACTOR



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DIRECT EDITION

HOW MUCH GRIEF
DO WE BRING
UPON OURSELVES?

I JUST HAVE TO
WONDER THAT
SOMETIMES. HOW
MUCH IS DESERVED...

AND HOW MUCH ISN'T?
I MEAN, SOMETIMES IT
FEELS LIKE I'M BEING
PUNISHED...

AND I DON'T
KNOW WHAT MY
CRIME WAS.

I'M SURE EVERY-
ONE FEELS THAT
WAY SOMETIMES.

THEN AGAIN,
I'M NEVER
REALLY SURE
OF ANYTHING.

THAT'S PART OF THE
JOY OF BEING ME...
JAMIE MADROX...THE
MULTIPLE MAN.

I SEE ALL SIDES TO
EVERYTHING. ALL
THE POSSIBILITIES.

AND BECAUSE OF WHO AND
WHAT I AM, I CAN GO IN ALL
DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.

THAT'S ME, RIGHT THERE, A CAPTIVE
OF HYDRA, AN ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO DOING WHATEVER THE
HELL IT IS EVIL ORGANIZATIONS DO.

APPARENTLY THEY HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH
ONE OF MY DUPES WHO IS CURRENTLY WORKING
AS AN AGENT FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., THE SUPER HERO
INTIMIDATION AND EVISCERATION DIVISION. NOT
THAT I'VE TOLD THEM THAT, OF COURSE.

NEVER A
DULL
MOMENT.

MULTIPLE ISSUES PART 2

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VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS

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IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR

WHAT'S HAPPENED UP UNTIL NOW



STUFF HAPPENED WITH GUIDO, RAHNE, AND RICTOR IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE, BUT NONE OF THEM ARE IN THIS ISSUE, SO IT'S REALLY NOT RELEVANT. YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? GO BUY THE ISSUE.

MONET AND SIRYN WERE STEAMED WITH EACH OTHER UPON DISCOVERING THAT JAMIE AND A DUPE, OR MAYBE JUST THE DUPE, HAD SLEPT WITH BOTH OF THEM. WITH LAYLA PROVIDING VAGUE THREATS THAT SHE WOULD TAKE ACTION IF THEY DIDN'T MEND FENCES, MONET SUGGESTED A SHOPPING TRIP TO PARIS, WHICH SIRYN TOOK HER UP ON.

AFTER A TALK WITH DOC SAMSON, JAMIE DECIDED TO START GATHERING IN HIS REMAINING WAYWARD DUPES. HIS FIRST ENDEAVOR DIDN'T END PARTICULARLY WELL AS HE WAS CAUGHT OUT IN S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS AND GIVEN A DRESSING-DOWN BY FORMER BOSS VAL COOPER. THINGS ONLY WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE, HOWEVER, AS HE WAS CAPTURED JUST OUTSIDE S.H.I.E.L.D. HQ BY HYDRA OPERATIVES AND WHISKED AWAY INTO THE NEXT ISSUE.

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HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA!


CUT OFF A LIMB AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!



WOW, MUST BE TOUGH TO FIND SHIRTS THAT FIT IF THAT KEEPS HAPPENING.

SO YOU'RE AWAKE.

NAH, I'M JUST TALKING IN MY SLEEP WITH SUPERB COMEDY TIMING.



TAKE HIM TO DOCTOR LOCKE SO THE PROCEDURE CAN BEGIN!

YOU'RE KIDDING. "DOC LOCKE?" I'M IN SHOCK.

NOW.




BET HE'S A CROCK.

FASTER!


WHAT, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ME MOCK DOC LOCKE?

DOES YOUR MOMMY KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING WITH EVIL SPIES, LITTLE GIRL?



MY MOTHER RECRUITED ME, AND I'M TWENTY-SEVEN. AS FOR DOCTOR LOCKE...

HE LENT HIS TALENTS TO SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE JOINING US. DID SOME WORK ON YOUR FRIEND, MR. CAROSELLA.



REALLY. SO HE'S THE ONE WHO BRAINWASHED GUIDO INTO A MURDERER.

CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM.

WELL, WELL.
JAMES MADROX,
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
A PLEASURE AND
AN HONOR, SIR.

SINGULARITY
INVESTIGATIONS HAD
EXTENSIVE FILES ON
MADROX PRIME THAT THEY
SHARED WITH ME. YOU
COULD MAKE A MOST
INTERESTING SUBJECT
FOR A DISSERTATION.

ARE YOU
COMFORTABLE?
CAN I GET YOU
ANYTHING?

A GUN WITH A
BULLET I CAN
PUT IN YOUR
BRAIN.

OH, NOW,
MR. MADROX...YOU
KNOW SUCH VIOLENCE
ISN'T IN YOUR
CHARACTER.

DON'T BE
SO SURE, I'VE
GOT A LOT OF
CHARACTER.

SO I HEAR,
"MADROX PRIME" HAS
QUITE A FEW, RATTLING
AROUND IN HIS HEAD. I
SUSPECT YOU DO AS
WELL.

ALL OF US
HAVE MANY SIDES,
BUT YOURS MAKE
THEMSELVES
MANIFEST.

YOU MAKE
BRUCE BANNER
LOOK LIKE THE
MENTAL HEALTH
POSTER BOY.

HEY,
DOC...

YES, MR.
MADROX?

I WASN'T
KIDDING. I'M
GOING TO KILL
YOU.

YOU
GO RIGHT ON
THINKING THAT,
MR. MADROX.

NOW...LET'S
BEGIN, AND
ONCE WE'RE
DONE...

YEARRRRHHH!!

...WE'LL
UNLEASH YOU ON
S.H.I.E.L.D....AND
ALLOW HILARITY
TO ENSUE.

BWAHAHAHAHA!

SERIOUSLY?
I MEAN...
SERIOUSLY?



YOU
AND BOTH
PRINCES?

SWEAR TO
GOD, THERESA.
THERE THEY ARE AT
THE RECEPTION, BOTH
WITH DATES...AND THEY
BOTH DITCH THEIR
DATES TO HANG ON
MY ARMS.

THE
TABLOIDS WERE
SCANDALIZED.

AND
NOW...



AND
NOW...WHAT,
MONEY?



THE TOAST OF TWO
CONTINENTS...ROYALTY
FALLING ALL OVER
ME...

AND WHOM
DO I BED? JAMIE
MADROX.

THAT MAY
BE FINE FOR
YOU, BUT--



YOU MEAN FOR YOU,
IT'S SLUMMING, BUT
FOR ME, A PEASANT
IS OKAY.

I WASN'T
SAYING THAT
EXACTLY...

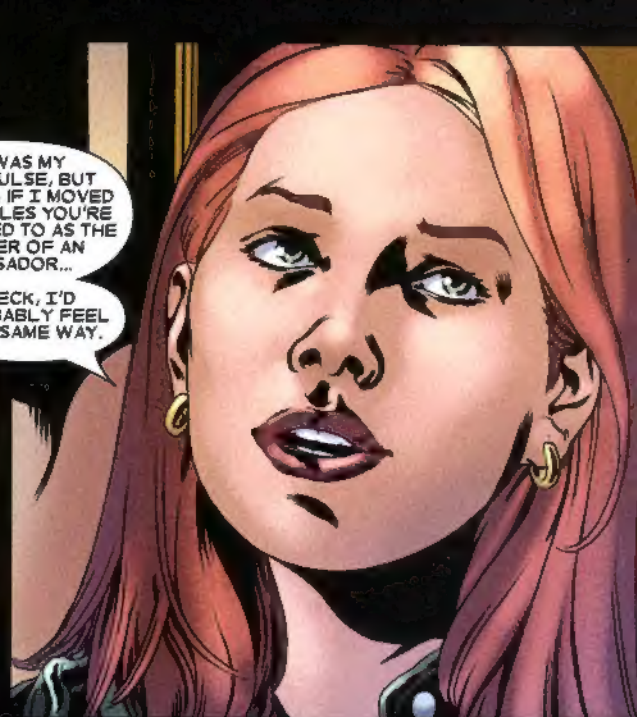


ON
SECOND
THOUGHT, I
GUESS I
WAS.



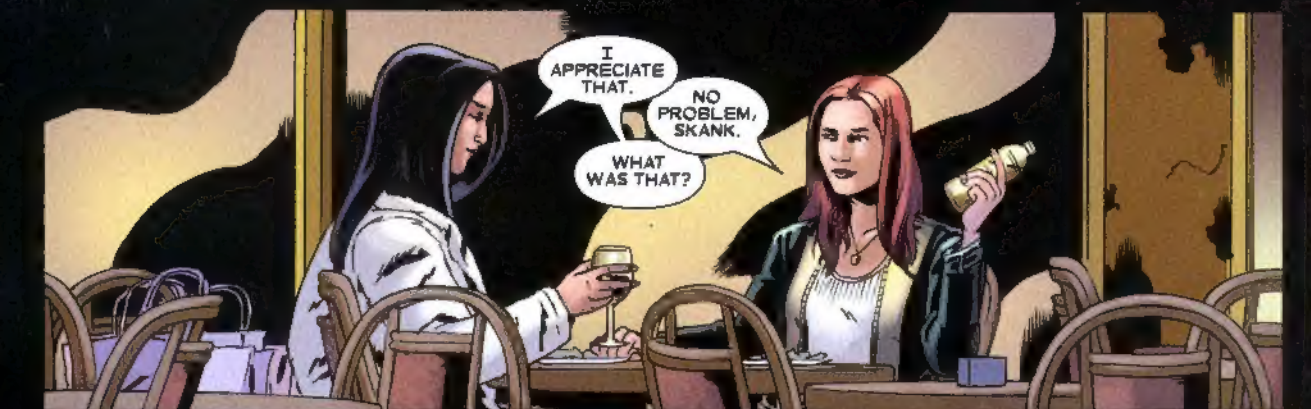


OH LORD,
YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO EXPECT ME TO
APOLOGIZE NOW,
ARE YOU?



THAT WAS MY
FIRST IMPULSE, BUT
I SUPPOSE, IF I MOVED
IN THE CIRCLES YOU'RE
ACCUSTOMED TO AS THE
DAUGHTER OF AN
AMBASSADOR...

HECK, I'D
PROBABLY FEEL
THE SAME WAY.



I
APPRECIATE
THAT.

NO
PROBLEM,
SKANK.

WHAT
WAS THAT?



I SAID,
"NO PROBLEM,
THANKS."

BECAUSE I
THOUGHT--



WAIT...DO
YOU SMELL
THAT?

I DON'T
SMELL
ANYTH--

HEY...
YES, NOW I
DO, TOO.



SOMETHING
BURNING. WHERE'S
THAT COMING
FROM?

OH,
YOU CAN'T BE
SERIOUS...!

IF I DIDN'T
SEE IT...HECK...
ACTUALLY I
WISH I WASN'T
SEEING IT.

WHAT
ARE THEY
SHOUTING?

THEY'RE
PROTESTING
MUTANTS...OR
RATHER, FORMER
MUTANTS.

EXCUSEZ-MOI
MONSIEUR? QUE CE
PASSE-T'IL ?

DE VÉRITABLES
MONSTRES VIVENT
ICI! CE SONT DES
MUTANTS !

DES MUTANTS?
AVEC DES
POUVOIRS ?

PERSONNE
NE SAIT VRAIMENT.
JE NE PENSE PAS,
MAIS IL EST POSSIBLE
QUE LEURS POUVOIRS
REVIENNENT. ET POUR
MOI C'EST BIEN
SUFFISANT !

CARE
TO RUN IT
PAST ME?

THERE'S A
BUNCH OF FORMER
MUTANTS LIVING HERE...
LIKE A MINI-MUTANT
TOWN. APPARENTLY THE
"NORMS" HAVE NOTICED,
AND THEY SHOWED UP TO
SLAP THEM AROUND.



ARRRRHHHH!!!

YOU CALL YOURSELF A SON?

WE GAVE YOU EVERYTHING, AND WHAT WAS THE RESULT? WE'RE DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU FREAK!

I...I'M SORRY... I...



STOP APOLOGIZING!

ARRRRHHHH!!!



IF WE'D HAD A NORMAL CHILD, THEN MR. TRYB WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU! WOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED THE STORM THAT KILLED US!

BUT...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY HE DID IT! AND WHY DIDN'T HE JUST...JUST TAKE ME AWAY? I GREW UP ALONE! WHY--

WHO CARES!?





NOW NOW,
DEAR...NO USE JUST
SLAPPING THE BOY IN
THE FACE OVER AND
OVER

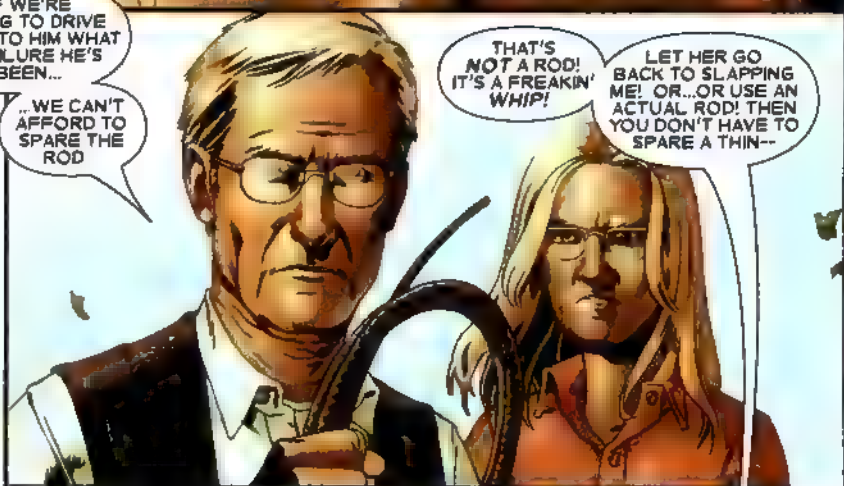
WHERE'S
THE POINT IN
THAT?



TH-THANKS,
DAD YOU YOU
DON'T KNOW
HOW IT--



AW
NO

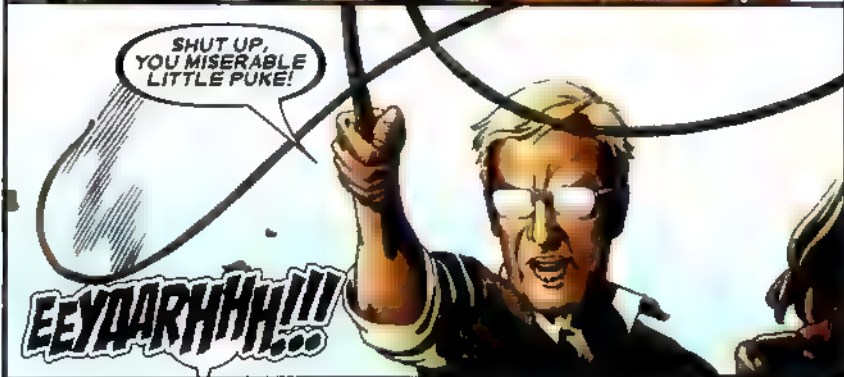


IF WE'RE
GOING TO DRIVE
HOME TO HIM WHAT
A FAILURE HE'S
BEEN...

...WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
SPARE THE
ROD

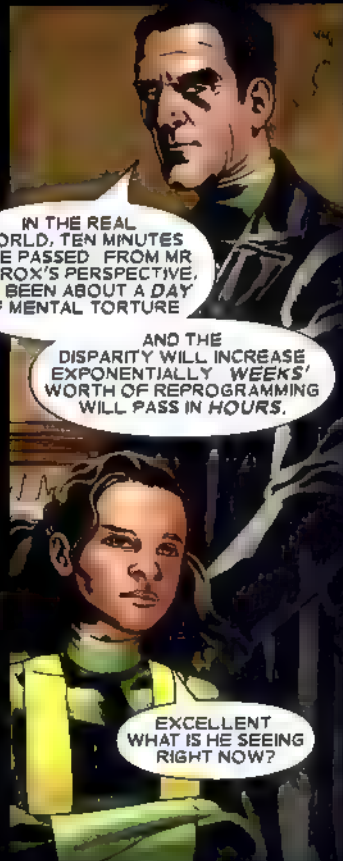
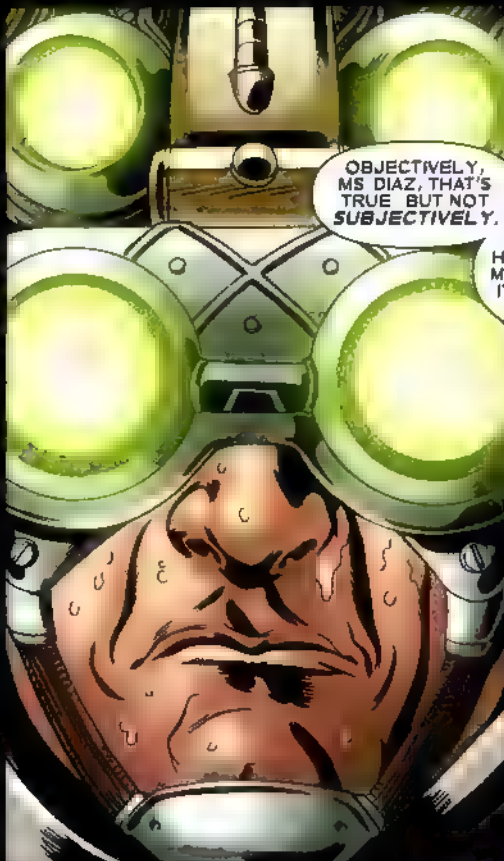
THAT'S
NOT A ROD!
IT'S A FREAKIN'
WHIP!

LET HER GO
BACK TO SLAPPING
ME! OR...OR USE AN
ACTUAL ROD! THEN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
SPARE A THIN--



SHUT UP,
YOU MISERABLE
LITTLE PUKE!

EEYAAARRHHH!!!



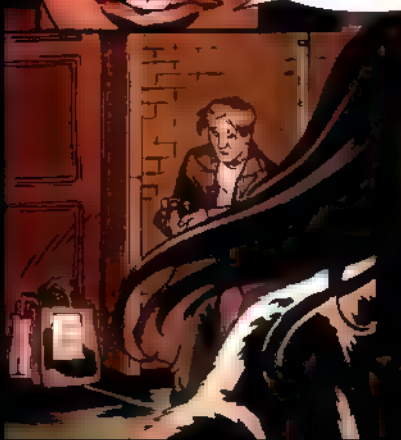




BLAM
BLAM

OH, VERY
BRAVE! TRYING
TO SHOOT A
WOMAN IN THE--

AW,
NO!!
THE
VICTOR MAYER
FABERGE EGG I JUST
BOUGHT! A BULLET
BOUNCED OFF ME AND
SHATTERED IT!



OH, YOU ARE
DEAD FOR THAT,
MONSIEUR!





ARE YOU CERTAIN HE'S READY?



ABSOLUTELY I HAVE STRIPPED HIS PERSONALITY DOWN TO ITS CORE A *TABULA RASA*, AS IT WERE

HE NOW MERELY NEEDS TO BE REPROGRAMMED IN THE INTERESTS OF HYDRA

YOU MAY, HOWEVER, WISH TO RECONSIDER THE CURRENT PLAN

RECONSIDER? WHY?



USING HIM AS A STEALTH AGENT OR INFILTRATOR IS SHORTSIGHTED

HE WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL COMBAT AGENT

WUMF

NOT MERELY AMAZING. ENVISION HIM HOLDING A SINGLE NUCLEAR DEVICE

AMAZING.

THE DUPLICATE WOULD LIKEWISE BE HOLDING IT. IMAGINE A NUCLEAR ARMY

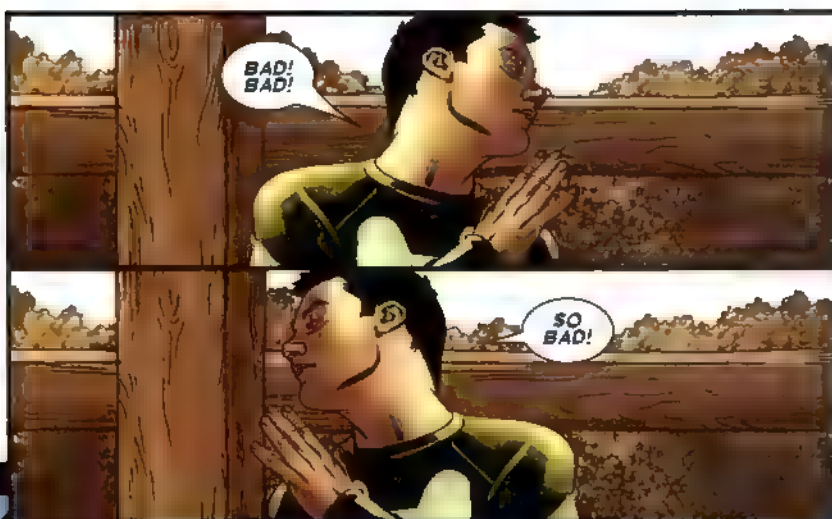
HOW IS THAT REMOTELY POSSIBLE?

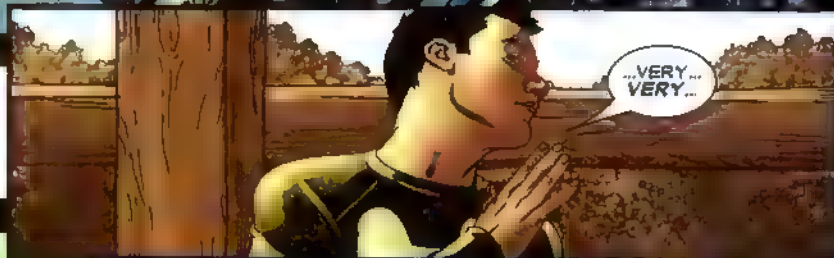
I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE. THERE'S MORE GOING ON WITH HIM THAN MERE CELLULAR REPLICATION

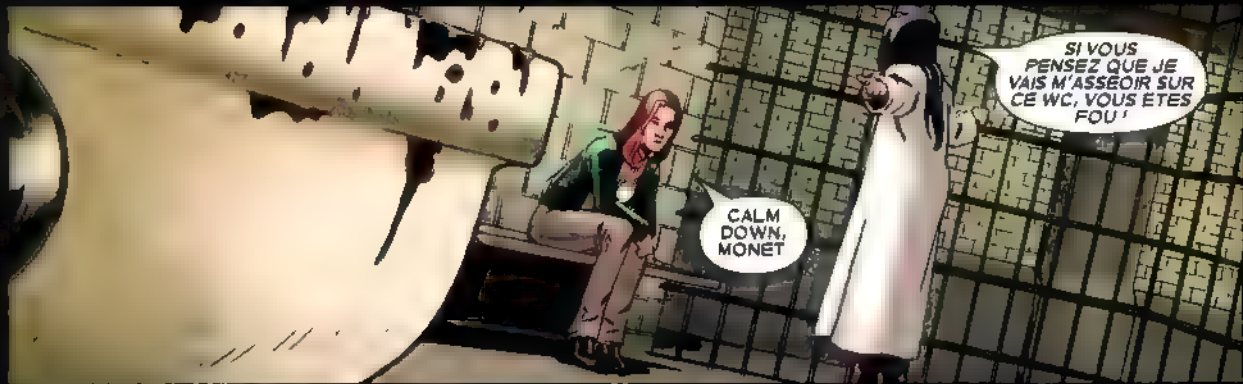
WHAT TECHNIQUES IS HE SKILLED IN?

I'VE NO CLUE BUT WE'RE TALKING QUANTITY OVER QUALITY.

WATCH.







SI VOUS
PENSEZ QUE JE
VAIS M'ASSEoir SUR
CE WC, VOUS ETES
FOU!

CALM
DOWN,
MONET



YOU CALM
DOWN!

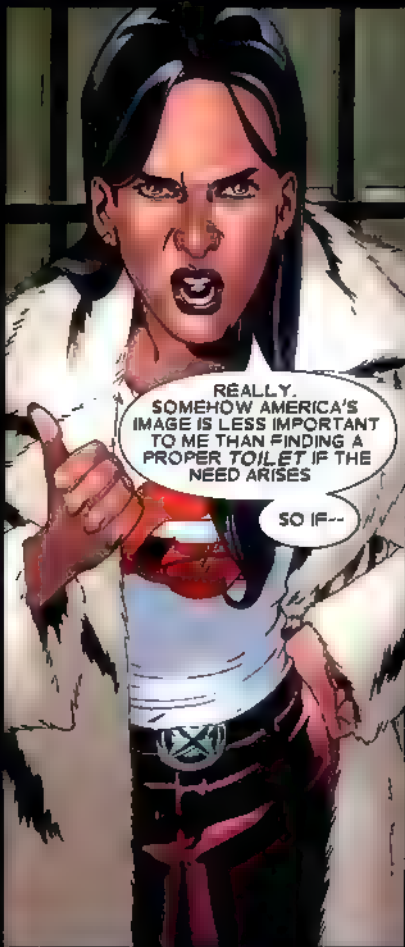
I...
ACTUALLY
AM CALM.
SO

PLAYING
NICE WITH THE
AUTHORITIES WAS
YOUR BRIGHT
IDEA

THE GENDARMES
COULDN'T STOP US FROM
TELLING THEM ABOUT THE
RIOTS! ABOUT MAKING A
POLITICAL STATEMENT!

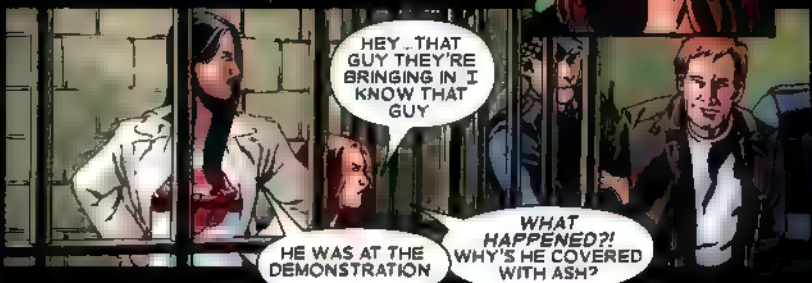
AND IT WAS
A GOOD ONE YOU
SAW! REPORTERS
WERE WAITING
FOR US!

PLUS WE
SHOWED THEM WE
DON'T THINK MUTANTS
ARE ABOVE THE LAW
WITH ALL THE NEGATIVE
PRESS THE U.S. IS GETTING
BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL
WAR, I THINK THAT WAS
AN IMPORTANT POINT
TO MAKE.



REALLY.
SOMEHOW AMERICA'S
IMAGE IS LESS IMPORTANT
TO ME THAN FINDING A
PROPER TOILET IF THE
NEED ARISES

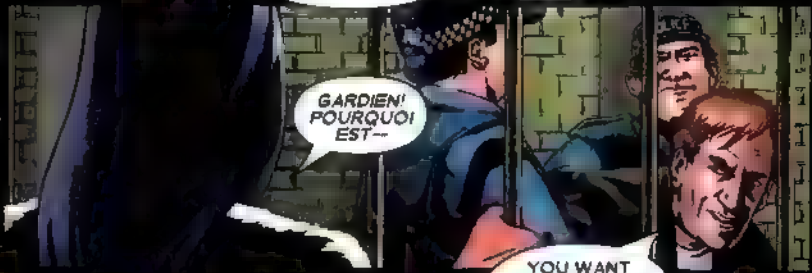
SO IF--



HEY... THAT
GUY THEY'RE
BRINGING IN I
KNOW THAT
GUY

HE WAS AT THE
DEMONSTRATION

WHAT
HAPPENED?!
WHY'S HE COVERED
WITH ASH?



GARDIEN!
POURQUOI
EST--

YOU WANT
TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, MAD'
MOISELLE? YOU
AND YOUR IRISH
FRIEND?



SILENCE!



THEY
BURNED.
WE BURNED
THEM OUT.
ALL THE
FREAKS. ALL THE
MONSTERS.



WE WENT
BACK, AFTER
THE POLICE LEFT,
AND BURNED
THEM UP.

ASHES TO
ASHES ...



...DUST
TO D--



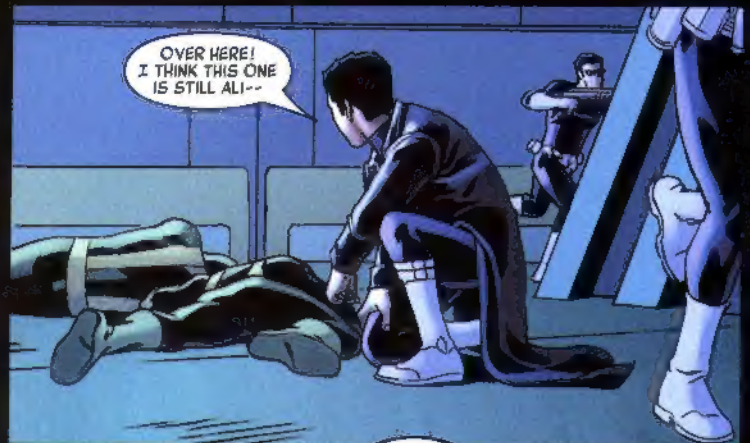
SPLUCH

--UCCHKKKKK--



MARY,
MOTHER OF
GOD... WHO...
WHAT DID
YOU...

I MADE
A POLITICAL
STATEMENT.





WHAT IS IT,
AGENT MADROX?
DID YOU FIND SOME-
ONE OR--?

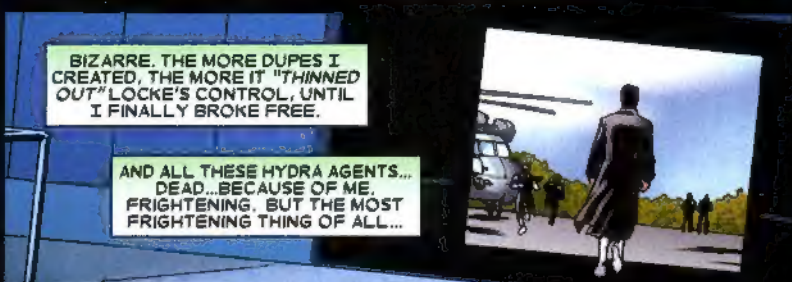


ACTUALLY, I'M
A LONG WAY
FROM "FINE."

I CAN STILL HEAR MY
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT PERSONA
SCREAMING IN PROTEST.
BUT THAT'LL FADE BEFORE
LONG. THEY ALWAYS DO.



NO,
MY, UH...MY
MISTAKE.
YOU ALL
RIGHT?
I'M...
I'M FINE.



BIZARRE. THE MORE DUPES I
CREATED, THE MORE IT "THINNED
OUT" LOCKE'S CONTROL, UNTIL
I FINALLY BROKE FREE.

AND ALL THESE HYDRA AGENTS...
DEAD...BECAUSE OF ME.
FRIGHTENING. BUT THE MOST
FRIGHTENING THING OF ALL...



...IS THAT I
DON'T FEEL
ANYTHING.

NO REGRET. NO
HORROR. NO
ELATION. JUST...
EMPTY. AND
THAT'S BAD.

VERY...

...VERY...

...BAD.



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